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EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council: Councillor C. Heske th, J.P.

Clerk: J.C.Pywell.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor S. Garner.

Vice Chairman: Councillor A. White.

MEMBERS.

Councillor	W.H.Baines	Councillor	N.P.Judge
"	J.G.Baker		(From 25. 6.61)
"	R.G.Barwell	"	C.N.Mackman
"	F.Baxter		(To 10. 5.61)
"	A.Broughton (From 25. 5.61)	"	H.Palmer
"	Rev. C.V.Browne-Wilkinson	"	H.Piggins J.P.
	(From 25. 5.61)	"	T.H.Rose
"	J.Cuthbert		(To 10. 5.61)
"	A.L.Dobbs	"	C.Rowell
"	A.B.Entwistle O.B.E., M.C.	"	T.W.Selby
	(From 25. 5.61)	"	D.G.Smawley
"	H.W.Farrow J.P.		(To 26. 2.61)
"	T.Fines (Wingland)	"	F.Stubley
"	T.Fines (Gedney)	"	A.Tubbs
"	C.Heske th J.P.	"	H.Waltham
"	C.Hopkins	"	R.Weston
	(Decd. 24th. December, 1961)		(To 10. 5.61)
"	I.K.Howes	"	F.H.White
"	Mrs. A.H.S.Hunter		

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health -

K.S.Deas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

W.B.Hitchings, B.Sc.(Hons.), M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
A.M.Inst. P.C., A.Inst.S.P.

District Public Health Inspectors -

G.Draycott, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (To 7. 5.61)

B.F.Larkinson, M.A.P.H.I.

A.Morton, M.A.P.H.I. (From 19. 6.61)

Clerks -

Miss F.J.Whelpton (To 28. 2.61)

Mrs. V.Sketcher

Mrs.S.N.Lown (From 1. 4.61)

East Elloe Rural District Council,
"Mattimore House",
HOLBEACH,
Spalding, Lincs.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
For the Year 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report on the health of your district for the year 1961.

As Dr. Deas was the Medical Officer of Health for the whole of the year, I am not in a position to offer much comment on the work of the Public Health Department in 1961. I have studied the health statistics of the district, however, and commented on them in the body of the report.

It is clear that the East Elloe Rural District has a considerable task to face in the future in sewerage and slum clearance. As a newcomer, I feel that the work will be both interesting and challenging.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council, the Clerk, and the Chief Officers for the friendly reception they gave me when I took up my duties.

I must also express my thanks to the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. Hitchings, for his invaluable help and advice, and to all the other officers of the Department for their efficient and conscientious work.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. MATHER MORFITT,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The district covers an area of 84,597 acres.

The estimated resident population, mid-1961: 22,120

The rateable value as at 1st. April, 1961: £159,264

The sum represented by a one-penny rate at 31st. March, 1961: £618.

The number of inhabited houses in the rate book on 31. 3. 61: 7,128.

Estimated average number of persons per inhabited house: 3.1

Average number of acres per person: 3.82

Average number of persons per square mile: 167

Number of acres per inhabited house: 11.86

The East Elloe Rural District is in the Holland Division of Lincolnshire. It is bounded on the North by the Wash, to the East, by the Counties of Norfolk and the Isle of Ely. It forms part of a very fertile plain with an average level of 13' O.D. From time to time, land is reclaimed from the sea and it is interesting to note that a considerable acreage which has been recovered since the War is now growing heavy crops.

Agriculture and horticulture are the predominant industries. Crops grown include potatoes, sugar-beet, peas, beans, corn, fruit, flowers and bulbs. Increasing numbers of sheep and cattle are now being raised particularly in the Marsh area.

Industries in the district include flour milling, canning of fruit and vegetables, making of fruit containers, agricultural engineering and there is also a large sawmill and joinery works. The preparation of vegetables for market is becoming more important and there are several establishments where vegetables such as potatoes, carrots and parsnips are prepared for sale. Spraying of crops with various chemicals is playing an ever increasing part in agriculture and this has led to the establishment of contracting businesses. Spraying is carried out with tractors, fixed wing aircraft and helicopters but, the increase in overhead electricity supply lines may lead to problems so far as aerial spraying is concerned. Industrial development in neighbouring towns has resulted in growing numbers working outside the district.

Births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Livebirths			
Legitimate	136	137	273
Illegitimate	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>
	145	146	291
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>
Stillbirths			
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	1	3	4
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>

Deaths

All ages:-	142	105	247
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Deaths during first year of life:-

Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	5	1	6
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>

Neonatal Deaths:-

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	3	1	4
	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>-----</u>

All the four neonatal deaths occurred in the first week of life. Two deaths were due to prematurity, and two were due to cerebral haemorrhage.

Of the two infants who died after the first month of life, one died from bronchopneumonia, and the other from a similar respiratory infection.

Statistics relating to mothers and infants

Live Births - Number	291
Rate per 1,000 population	13.11
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	6.18
Stillbirths - Number	4
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	13.56
Total Live and Still Births	295
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	6
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	20.62
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.91
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	55.55
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	13.75
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	13.75
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	27.12
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	3.39

CAUSES AND NUMBERS OF DEATHS IN
EAST ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT DURING 1961.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis Respiratory	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	1	1
3. Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	2	2	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung bronchus	7	1	8
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	10	27
15. Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	-	1	1
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	18	20	38
18. Coronary disease, angina	21	12	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	3	8
20. Other heart disease	16	13	29
21. Other circulatory disease	6	7	13
22. Influenza	3	1	4
23. Pneumonia	9	9	18
24. Bronchitis	3	3	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	4	7
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	10	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
34. All other accidents	2	-	2
35. Suicide	3	-	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total number of deaths:	142	105	247
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

LUNG CANCER DEATHS

<u>Years</u>	<u>East Elloe R.D.</u>	<u>Spalding R.D.</u>	<u>Spalding U.D.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1950)				
1951)	14	5	6	25
1952)				
1953)				
1954)	14	9	8	31
1955)				
1956)				
1957)	16	16	16	48
1958)				
1959)				
1960)	20	15	14	49
1961)				

Over the past twelve years, the number of deaths from lung cancer in the South Holland urban and rural districts has increased. In this area, there is little or no atmospheric pollution and the only likely cause for this increase is an increased use of tobacco, particularly cigarettes.

It probably takes several years of smoking before the lung passages respond by developing cancer, and in my opinion, the seeds of this present increase in the disease were sown in the 30's and 40's when heavy cigarette smoking became more common.

Since then, the annual consumption of tobacco per head has gone up still further, and it is probable that in the next few years the disease will continue to rise in incidence.

It is difficult for a heavy smoker to discontinue the habit, but since the publication of the Royal College of Physicians report, "Smoking and Health", many people have thought it advisable to try.

Nearly everyone however, will agree that young people should be urged to avoid this expensive and dangerous habit.

Unfortunately the cigarette manufacturers have bombarded these youngsters with skilful propaganda on the mass media, designed to make them the cigarette addicts of the future.

If they succeed, it is probable that a proportion of them will become the lung cancer of the future.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES IN EAST
ELLOE RURAL DISTRICT 1947 - 1961

Year	No. of live births	Crude Birth Rate	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Average 5 years		
						Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1947	519	23.15	246	10.97	50.10	18.59	10.42	36.14
1948	443	19.32	210	9.16	24.83			
1949	390	17.05	264	11.54	38.46			
1950	398	17.17	220	9.49	35.18			
1951	373	16.24	251	10.93	32.17			
1952	376	16.57	247	10.89	34.57	15.32	10.50	27.80
1953	371	16.33	223	9.82	40.43			
1954	360	15.80	246	10.79	30.55			
1955	318	13.66	237	10.18	3.14			
1956	330	14.25	251	10.84	30.30			
1957	313	13.54	226	9.78	28.75	14.17	10.61	21.85
1958	338	14.92	253	11.17	14.79			
1959	330	14.54	240	10.58	24.24			
1960	335	14.77	234	10.31	20.89			
1961	291	13.11	247	11.17	20.62			

In order to allow valid comparisons to be made between birth and death rates of different populations, the "crude" rates are corrected, using comparability factors supplied by the Registrar General that take into account the differences in age structure of the various populations.

	Live birth rate (corrected)	Death rate (corrected)	Infant mortality rate
East Elloe R.D.	13.6	11.2	20.6
Holland C.C. - rural districts	14.4	10.3	19.8
Holland C.C. - urban districts	15.7	11.6	15.8
Holland C.C. - all districts	14.9	10.8	18.2
England and Wales	17.4	12.0	21.4

The above figures show that while this district has a lower birth rate than the rest of England and Wales, the death rate and infant mortality rate continue to compare favourably with the national average.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Cases Notified, excluding Tuberculosis

Disease	Cases Notified				
Scarlet Fever	14
Whooping Cough	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Measles	487
Diphtheris	-
Pneumonia	10
Dysentery	-
Enteric Fever	-
Paratyphoid	-
Erysipelas	6
Meningococcal Infection	-
Food Poisoning	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Total:					<u>519</u>

Analysis of Cases of Infectious Disease under Age Groups

Disease	Age Group in years							Total
	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-14	15-24	25 & over	Not known	
Scarlet Fever	-	1	2	11	-	-	-	14
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Measles	9	82	99	285	5	4	3	487
Pneumonia	2	-	-	1	1	6	-	10
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	6
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total cases	11	84	101	299	6	15	3	519

Incidence of Infectious Diseases in Recent Years

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
Scarlet Fever	9	46	27	12	8	36	15	18	8	14
Whooping Cough	23	96	44	29	17	10	72	2	9	2
Measles	105	779	14	155	8	735	29	23	127	487
Erysipelas	9	5	2	9	4	4	2	5	10	6
Food Poisoning	5	4	4	2	1	28	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	3	1	-	-	4	-	1	1	-

Comments on Infectious Diseases

There have been no notifications of diphtheria or poliomyelitis in the last 10 years. This does not justify complacency however and this happy state of affairs will only continue as long as a high proportion of children receive protection by vaccination and immunization.

1961 was a measles year, 487 cases being notified. This disease is still dangerous in the very young, and like whooping cough, it can sow the seeds of future chest troubles.

In the near future it may become possible to protect these very young children against the disease. A measles vaccine has been developed, and is at present undergoing clinical trials with encouraging results.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION

Between the 1st January 1961 and the 31st December, 1961, 262 children under five years of age, and 42 children between the ages of 5 and 14 years, received a primary immunization course (3 injections at monthly intervals).

A further 392 children were given a "booster" or secondary injection.

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the County Medical Officer shows the numbers and percentage of children at 31st December 1961 who have been immunized at any time.

District	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5-14 years	
Boston Borough	153	37.5	1005	63.6	3640	92.9
Spalding Urban	90	38.4	532	57.4	2045	96.9
Boston Rural	129	39.4	858	62.9	3149	94.9
East Elloe Rural	110	27.3	761	62.5	3191	89.1
Spalding Rural	<u>96</u>	<u>40.1</u>	<u>723</u>	<u>63.2</u>	<u>2988</u>	<u>94.6</u>
Totals	<u>578</u>	<u>35.4</u>	<u>3879</u>	<u>62.8</u>	<u>15013</u>	<u>93.2</u>

When considering the figure 35.4% for children born in 1961 (i.e. under 1 year) who had been immunized in the year it must be noted that only about one third of them could have completed the course of injections by December 31st.

TUBERCULOSIS

Cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at 31.12.61.	Pulmonary Non-pulmonary	M	F	Total
		<u>37</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>77</u>
		7	2	9
Cases removed from the Register during 1961:-	Cured	-	2	2
	Left district	-	3	3
	Died	1	1	2
Cases added to the Register during 1961.		1	3	4

Details of Cases on Tuberculosis Register, 1952 - 1961.

	Cases on Register at 31st December			Deaths during year	
	New Cases	Pulmonary	Non- pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- pulmonary
1952	10	61	20	4	-
1953	8	62	15	-	-
1954	12	69	7	4	-
1955	9	74	9	-	-
1956	10	72	9	-	-
1957	12	77	8	2	-
1958	6	80	7	-	-
1959	3	83	8	3	-
1960	9	80	8	2	-
1961	4	77	9	1	1

Tuberculosis has ceased to be a major killing disease with the advent of modern antibiotic treatment.

The above table shows however, that the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis on the register has tended to rise, not fall, over the last ten years. Many patients who would in the past have died from the disease continue to need supervision and help. The Tuberculosis Visitors of the County Council carry out this work.

It is important for pulmonary tuberculosis patients to take steps to prevent spread of the disease, and infectious cases need to occupy a separate bedroom. For this reason tuberculosis patients often need to be considered for rehousing.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Hospitals

Holbeach Hospital is attended by the various specialists at given intervals. It is a general practitioner's hospital and a duty rota is maintained by all the practitioners in the district. It has a maternity unit.

Other hospitals which serve the area are:-

Boston General Hospital	Acute General cases
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Hospital	" " "
North Cambridge Hospital, Wisbech	" " "
White House Hospital, Fishtoft	Infectious and Chest Diseases
Pinchbeck Road Hospital, Spalding	Aged and chronic sick.

(b) Ambulance Service

A standing Joint Committee representative of the Local Medical Committee, the Hospital Management Committee and the County Council, aims at ensuring the efficiency of this Service.

(c) Midwifery and Maternity Services

The County Council is the supervising authority under the Midwives Acts.

(d) Health Visiting

Health Visitors attend infant welfare and ante-natal clinics, visit expectant and nursing mothers and mental defectives.

(e) Clinic Centres

Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-natal clinics are provided by the County Council at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge.

Ophthalmological examinations are provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic for school children whose vision has been found to be defective.

Speech Therapy is provided by appointment at Holbeach Clinic.

Vaccination against small pox and poliomyelitis, and immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus are provided at all Infant Welfare Clinics.

(f) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council at Lincoln and specimens for bacteriological examination, and samples of food and water have been despatched there.

Samples of milk and ice-cream have also been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Peterborough and District Hospital.

(g) Home Nursing

A home nursing service is maintained by the County Council.

(h) Home Helps

This service is provided by the County Council and is available to the public during illness or in the later months of pregnancy.

(i) National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No formal action was taken under this Act during the year. However, many visits were made to elderly persons in need of some care, and various agencies, voluntary and otherwise, were asked to help.

REPORT FOR 1961 SUPPLIED BY COUNCIL'S WATER ENGINEER

The demand on the Council's Water Undertaking continues to increase regardless of weather conditions which seem to change from year to year.

In consequence of the Council's far-seeing policy of progress these growing demands are being met with increasing confidence.

During the year 1961 the major part of a further distribution scheme was carried out and was expected to be completed in the early part of 1962. This scheme involved some 20 miles of 3" diameter and 4" diameter mains in various parts of the district. Two objectives were aimed at in this scheme, namely consumer interests and the linking up of dead end sections to give improved pressures and better distribution.

The policy of trunk main duplication which is the back bone of the whole reticulation system also progressed a step nearer fulfilment. The final section from Holbeach to Little Sutton was prepared and received the preliminary approval of the Ministry.

In consequence however, of the further economic crisis which developed during the year the Council received the Ministry request for the exercise of the strictest economy in capital expenditure. In deference to this request the Council decided for the time being to proceed only with one half of the trunk main scheme, and to postpone the remainder to a more opportune time.

During the year therefore, the section from Godney to Little Sutton was finally let by contract and it was expected that the work would commence early in 1962. It was hoped that the second half would not be too long postponed, but this would have to be left to the proposed South Lincolnshire Water Board which it was anticipated would come into operation in 1962.

The total quantity of water distributed in the Council's area of supply during the year ended 31st December 1961 was 283,411,000 gallons, which represented a daily average of 776,400 gallons. These figures show an increase of 13,531,000 gallons in total consumption and an increase of 10,100 gallons in daily average over the corresponding figures for 1960.

The total measured supply for 1961 was 119,173,000 gallons and the unmeasured figure for the same period was 164,238,000 gallons.

The total consumption expressed in gallons per head per day of human population supplied was 34.2 gallons, and the figure for unmeasured supply was 20 gallons per head per day. The domestic consumption is slightly below this figure, since some of the smaller agricultural and horticultural supplies are unmeasured.

It is of some interest to record that for the year 1951 the total consumption was 182,470,000 gallons and the figure for 1961 shows an increase of over 100,000,000 gallons for the 10 year period. To keep pace with this increasing demand, approximately £175,000 worth of capital works have been carried out during the last 16 years, and the total capital expenditure is now approaching £300,000.

Of the total bulk supply purchased during the year under review, approximately 70% was received from the Pinchbeck source of the Spalding R.D.C. and the remainder from the Bourne source of the Spalding U.D.C.

Frequent bacteriological analysis of water were taken with satisfactory results. In all cases when new mains are laid, these are sterilized and sampled before being put into service.

A typical chemical analysis of the supply is appended which shows the characteristics of the mixed water from the two sources.

Chemical Examination

A sample of mains water was sent for full chemical examination on 9th February 1960 and the analyst's report on it was as follows:-

Appearance when received:	NIL	Nature of deposit:	NIL
Colour:	NIL	Odour:	NIL
Reaction: Faintly alkaline PH7.5		Taste:	Satisfactory

Results of chemical analysis in parts per million:-

Ammoniacal nitrogen:	0.08	Hardness as CaCO ₃ :-	
Albuminoid nitrogen:	0.04	Total:	310
Nitrate nitrogen:	1.0	Carbonate (Temporary)	240
Nitrite nitrogen:	NIL	Non-carbonate (Permanent)	70
Chlorine as chlorides:	18	Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	240
Oxygen absorbed (4 Hr. 27°C)	0.30	Free carbon dioxide	15
Silica as SiO ₂	4.5	Total solids (at 180°C)	435
Sulphate as SO ₄	90	Iron (Total)	0.11
Fluorine as F	0.70	Metals in solution other than iron	NIL

Analyst's opinion:-

The organic quality of this water is good and the analysis as a whole shows no sign of pollution. This water was previously analysed in December 1957 and the present analysis is similar to that of the previous sample except that the fluorine content on this occasion is markedly higher. We understand that the main supply in Holbeach is a mixture of two waters, and it may be that the present sample contains these waters in different proportions from the previous sample.

The reaction of the water is on the alkaline side of neutrality and the water would not be expected to have any serious corrosive action on metals. A trace of iron is present, but the amount is of no importance. The total hardness approximates to 28°Clark. In our opinion this water is very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

Bacteriological Examinations

Regular weekly sampling of water continued during the year. Of 64 mains water samples taken 60 proved satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory. Subsequent checking by the Water Engineer's department brought satisfactory results after flushing and rechlorination of the mains had taken place.

One sample taken from a shallow well at an unfit house at Saracens Head proved unsatisfactory. Action taken by the department resulted in the tenant being rehoused, the house demolished and the well filled in.

Parish	Area in Acres (1)	Total Houses (2)	Nat. Pop. 1951 Consus (3)	MEANS OF SUPPLY			No Mains Water Houses (6)
				Direct to Houses Houses (4)	Standpipes Houses Pop. (5)		
					Pop. (4)	Pop. (5)	
Fleet	6837	494	1546	472	1402	22	65
Gedney	11679	736	2325	716	2127	15	45
Gedney Hill	1865	160	400	156	463	3	9
Lutton	3793	293	945	289	867	4	11
Sutton St. Edmund	4670	191	542	184	546	7	20
Sutton St. James	2707	223	649	221	656	2	6
Little Sutton	743	50	150	49	145	1	2
Tydd St. Mary	4637	301	911	277	822	19	56
Whaplode	10688	627	2642	586	1740	39	116
Whaplode Drove		261		757	6	18	
Holbeach	22666	2260	6736	2230	6623	30	89
Long Sutton	3931	1075	2880	1039	3086	35	104
Sutton Bridge	10380	1105	3364	1091	3241	14	42
Total:	84596	7776	23090	7565	22475	197	583

Average 2.97 persons
per dwelling

The above compiled from Councils Rate
Books September 1962.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

1961 has been a year of quiet progress.

Progress has been made with the Holbeach main sewerage scheme in that an investigation into it was made towards the end of the year by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

It is pleasing to note the increasing number of dwellings that are being improved in so far as provision of "essential amenities" is concerned but it is regretted that the same progress has not been possible in the case of the older Council houses.

Weekly refuse collections are now made over practically all the area. Duplication of service has been avoided in those parts where our area adjoins other districts by our collecting on their behalf. Salvage sales have increased yet again over those of the preceding year.

Whilst progress has been made in dealing with sub-standard dwellings, this began to slow down owing to the reduced numbers of Council dwellings built to rehouse tenants of unfit property.

All the slaughterhouses now comply with the Construction Regulations and it is pleasing to again record 100% inspection of all food animals killed in them. Whilst the general standard of hygiene in food shops and other food premises is good it is regretted that it has not been possible to make more visits to such premises.

There have been several staff changes during the year. Mr. Draycott, a most zealous inspector, left for Seisdon Rural District Council and his duties were taken over by Mr. Allen Morton of Peterborough. Miss Whelpton, the senior clerk and a most conscientious officer, also left during the year and her place was taken by Mrs. Lown of the Water Department. I was also very sorry to lose the services of Mr. Robert Brown J.P., the Rodent Officer. "Bob" who had been with the Department for over 21 years was a very loyal and trusted worker.

I would thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their advice and help, the Medical Officer for his support, the staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and hard work and all the Officers of the Council for their co-operation at all times.

Your obedient servant,

W.B. HITCHINGS,

Chief Public Health Inspector

NUISANCES

Complaints

A total of 120 complaints were registered during the year in respect of the various matters detailed in the following list. This is a reduction of 63 on the 1960 figure. Informal approaches often result in defects being remedied or nuisances abated without recourse to formal action.

General housing defects	22
Defective, blocked or inadequate drainage	16
Defective or inadequate closet accommodation	3
Flooding of premises	3
Absence of or inadequate sinks	2
Offensive accumulations	4
Smoke nuisances	3
Watercourse pollution	4
Rat and mice infestations	43
Insect pests	9
Nuisance from dog keeping	1
Nuisance from pig keeping	3
Indiscriminate tipping	1
Unsatisfactory living conditions	1
Refuse collection	1
Offensive smells	2
Unclean persons and house	1
Nuisance from Hide and Skin collection	1
	<u>120</u>

Registered Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered common lodging houses in the district.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades, as defined by the Public Health Act, being carried on in the district.

Litter

Council owned litter bins are provided at suitable points throughout the district and on the whole, are well used. They are D-shaped, galvanised wire type 30" high bearing a small slogan plate but no advertisement.

River Pollution

Only main sewerage schemes in the urban areas will reduce the present pollution of dykes and drains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Main Sewerage

An investigation into the Holbeach Revised Main Sewerage Scheme was conducted by Mr. S.G. Cotton, an Engineering Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, at the Council Chamber, Mattimore House, Holbeach on the 22nd November, 1961.

The Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge Sewerage Scheme is undergoing revision by the Consulting Engineers.

Sewage Disposal Plants

The Department is responsible for the maintenance of 29 small sewage plants, 23 of these (25 Ejector Stations) serve Council estates, 4 serve County Council Schools, whilst the other 2 serve a County Council Nursing Home and a County Council Hostel. Sewerage is accepted into one of the Council's Estate plants from a County Council Old Persons Home. Plant maintenance is carried out by two men with a light van. Inspectors of the Nene River Board carry out tests on the effluents from the sewage plants in the area and tests are also made, from time to time, by the Health Department.

Public Conveniences

Public conveniences for men and women are provided at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge, and are administered by the respective Parish Councils.

Temporary sanitary conveniences are provided, erected and maintained by this department in Spring for the influx of visitors touring the tulip fields. The conveniences are also loaned to organisations holding sports, fetes and other outdoor events.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Staff

The establishment of 21 men was increased to 22 owing to a reduction of working hours from 44 to 42 a week at the beginning of the year. A five-day week was introduced during June and this has worked satisfactorily.

The duties of the men include refuse collection and disposal, sanitary pail collection and disposal, cesspool and vault emptying and disposal, salvage collection and disposal, sewage plant maintenance and rat destruction. One of the men

also undertakes the cleaning up work after the Saturday Market in High Street, Holbeach.

There has again been a fair amount of sickness during the year.

Transport and Haulage

Vehicles in use at the present time include:-

For refuse and salvage collection	One 10 cu. yd. Side Loader. One 24 cu. yd. Moving floor rear loader. Two 16/18 cu. yd. Fore and Aft rear loaders. Five Salvage Trailers - all these are now fitted with ball hitches.
For cesspool emptying	Four 1,100 gallon Cesspool Emptiers.
For refuse disposal	One M & F "35" Industrial Tractor. This is equipped with shovel, fork and bulldozer blade.
For sewage plant maintenance	One 10 h.p. Van.

The tractor, two of the refuse collection vehicles and two of the cesspool emptiers are fitted with diesel engines. These have been found to be economical and efficient.

A Fore and Aft rear loader with compression plate is on order and this should prove of great value on the rural routes.

The present garage accommodation at the Holbeach Depot cannot be regarded as really satisfactory and it is hoped that provision of a new garage will be given consideration in the not too distant future.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Weekly kerbside collections are now carried out over practically all the district. Further extensions are being contemplated to deal with outlying premises in the rural area.

One of the problems in collection is the "dead-end" road met with so often on housing estates.

Objectives for the future include the requiring of standard type dust bins at all premises and collection from the

rear of properties.

Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping. There has been no lack of sites. In fact, the opposite prevails although the sites available are not always near to the collection areas.

Salvage Collection and Disposal

Domestic salvage is collected at the same time as the domestic refuse. Trailers are attached to the refuse vehicles so that the salvage, principally paper and cardboard, is kept separate from the refuse. A special collection is made each week from shops in the urban areas.

Paper is still, by far, the most important source of income and the amounts collected are increasing each year. 380 tons were collected in 1961 compared with 343 the previous year and 241 five years ago. These represent increases of approximately 11% and 58% respectively. These figures could not have been achieved without the wholehearted co-operation of the public to whom our sincere thanks are due.

Details of salvage sales in 1961 are given below.

Material	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper and Cardboard	380	9	0	2894	9	0
Textiles	3	18	3	81	1	0
Ferrous metal (est.)	3	0	0	7	0	0
Non-ferrous metals		8	2	31	15	11
Cartons	5	10	0	24	6	0
Sundries	-	-	-	4	8	7
Totals	393	6	1	3043	0	6

This revenue is about equal to the product of a 5d. rate.

Total value of salvage sold since the scheme began in 1940 is £34,620.

Cesspool and Vault Emptying and Disposal

Cesspool and vault emptying is carried out over the whole area. The cesspool emptiers are also used for emptying street drain catchpits, rain water cisterns, tanks at sewage plants etc. etc. No charge is made for the emptying of vaults, or domestic cesspools provided service is not required more often than once per premise per year. Charges,

when made, are based on the time taken for the work and, in the case of domestic cesspools regard is had to the period since the previous service. The total revenue for 1961 was £1,625. 13. 10d.

A total of 8,642 cesspool units were dealt with in 1961. Slightly less than the previous year. The number of vault closets emptied decreased whilst the number of cesspools emptied increased.

Disposal of cesspool and vault contents posed the usual problems, the magnitude of which is shown by the very conservative estimate of over three million gallons in the year. Disposal was by deposit on arable and grass land, in trenches and in lagoons.

Sanitary Pail Collection and Disposal

Collections are made on five evenings each week in the urban areas of Holbeach, Long Sutton and Sutton Bridge. Use is made of a cesspool emptying vehicle fitted with a night-soil hopper attachment.

Disposal is by composting with straw. The product is similar to farmyard manure and is used on the land.

HOUSING

Provision of new houses

Development continued at Holbeach, Long Sutton and Tydd St. Mary. However, the number of dwellings built needs to increase considerably if there is to be any substantial reduction of the housing waiting list and if the Council's slum clearance scheme is to be fully implemented.

Co-operation between the Housing Committee and the Public Health Committee is essential and it might be that a small joint sub-committee would be of value to examine and co-ordinate the problems of housing need, slum clearance and the obtaining of sites. The possibility of the purchase of slum clearance property and the re-development of the sites is but one avenue which could be explored. Without a positive building policy the slum clearance programme cannot be carried out satisfactorily.

The number of Council-owned dwellings at 1st. June 1961 was:-

(a)	Permanent houses:	Erected prior to 1945	869
		Completed since 1945	861
		Under erection	42
(b)	Temporary bungalows:	Aluminium type at Holbeach and Sutton Bridge	69
		Converted ex-R.A.F. Hutments at Sutton Bridge	25

Total: 1866 dwellings.

The number of new dwellings completed during 1961 was as follows:-

(a)	By the Council	48 bungalows, 10 houses.
(b)	By private enterprise	51 bungalows, 10 houses.

Total: 119 dwellings.

The number of new dwellings under construction at 31. 12. 61 was:

(a)	By the Council	NIL
(b)	By private enterprise	32 houses, 8 bungalows

Total: 40 dwellings.

Applications for Council Houses

As no dwellings were projected for 1961 the numbers on the application list inevitably continued to increase. Housing applications have increased from 581 in 1960 to 640 in 1961.

During the current year the Housing Department intend to completely amend the registration list. Their up to date figures would be of value to the sub-committee suggested previously.

Overcrowding

No cases of overcrowding were found in the year.

Visits to the three hostels provided for Canning Factory workers were made from time to time.

Disrepair of Private Dwellings

33 houses were repaired during the year without recourse to statutory action. One statutory notice served on an owner resulted in a satisfactory mains water supply being provided to a house previously using a rain water cistern.

Certificates of Disrepair

No certificates of disrepair were issued during the year.

Improvement Grants

Useful progress continues in the improvement of old property by owners taking advantage of both forms of grant aid. It is interesting to note that out of 69 Standard Grants approved, 31 were in respect of owner occupied property and 38 were in respect of tenanted property. Out of 16 Discretionary Grants, 13 were granted to owner occupiers and 3 for tenanted properties. These figures are well above the National Average for grants given to tenanted property. This is very satisfactory and it is hoped that the trend will continue.

Moveable Dwellings

The number of caravans in the area remained constant during the year. Steady progress was made in bringing sites up to the standards laid down by the Caravan Sites and Development Act.

Itinerant gipsy caravans are becoming more of a problem as sites become closed to them and with the co-operation of the police they are moved on particularly when they park on the highway verges but this is no positive solution. Surely the time has now come when sites should be provided on a National Basis particularly near areas where they do seasonal work which could also serve as their winter quarters.

Slum Clearance

A total of 46 unfit dwellings were dealt with in the year as compared with 78 houses in 1960. The Slum Clearance programme is steadily slowing up; no houses were authorised by the Council to be built in the year owing to the National economic crisis. Occupiers of sub-standard dwellings were rehoused in houses being completed from the 1960 programme and

urgent cases were allocated vacant council houses as they became available.

Only 26 bungalows were authorised in 1961 for the 1962 programme, despite the fact that the Council have undertaken to deal with 50 unfit houses per year. Of the 26 authorised only 6 have been earmarked for slum clearance. Staffing problems of the Architects Department have been one of the reasons for this situation.

It will be appreciated that your Public Health officers are therefore "hamstrung" in dealing with a very vital part of their work and it is to be hoped that greater efforts will be possible in the future to alleviate the conditions of many unfortunate occupiers of our bad houses.

Many of the houses your officers have to visit need the "Wisdom of Solomon" to decide what is to be done with them when they well know that demolition and rehousing of the occupier is the proper answer. The only course open is often the service of a notice under the Public Health Act to get a leaking roof, and so on, repaired.

(a) Houses demolished as a result of clearance orders:-	5
(b) Houses demolished as a result of demolition orders:-	11
(c) Houses demolished after official undertakings:-	2
(d) Houses demolished after informal action with owner:-	9
(e) Local Authority unfit houses demolished:-	-
(f) Houses closed as a result of closing order:-	2
(g) Houses closed as a result of official undertaking:-	10
(h) Houses closed after informal action with owners:-	7

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Slaughterhouses

The appointed day, from which all slaughterhouses in this district must comply fully with the construction regulations made under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1956 was the 1st July.

From January 1st until the appointed day, 8 slaughterhouses were licensed by the Council. As from the 1st July this number was reduced to five.

Whilst every effort is made by licencees to maintain satisfactory hygienic standards, certain restrictions in practice result through the absence of a main sewerage scheme.

Slaughtermen

During the year 30 licences were issued to slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Acts.

One licence was revoked after 10 sheep were found to have been slaughtered otherwise than instantaneously by means of a mechanically operated instrument. No further action was taken by the Council as the licencee had subsequently taken up other employment.

Meat Inspection

I am happy to say that 100% inspection of locally killed food animals is being maintained. This however takes up considerable time and results in difficulties with other duties. A distance of some twenty-two miles daily is necessary to visit one slaughterhouse alone, and although three slaughterhouses closed down during the year, inspection figures show an increased kill of approximately 13.5% over the previous year.

The diversity of diseases found is wider than in many other districts. With the exception of the occasional pig carcase affected with tuberculosis, this former scourge of meat inspection is now a thing of the past in so far as general inspection is concerned. The only instances occurring in the area during the year were the inspection of carcasses submitted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food veterinary service as "reactors".

Apart from routine inspection, 75 animals were inspected after being sent in to slaughterhouses for emergency reasons and 38 tuberculosis reactors were also inspected and reported on to the Divisional Veterinary Officer.

Meat inspection figures for 1961 are given in the table below:-

Class of animal	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1430	36	18	2134	5199
Number inspected	1430	36	18	2134	5199
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	2	1	1	35
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	219	8	5	49	316
Percentage of carcass affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	15.5	27.8	33.3	2.3	6.8
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	11	2	-	61
Percentage of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis	0.63	30.6	11.1	-	1.2
Cysticercosis					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	15	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

The amount of meat condemned and the incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* within East Elloe Rural District has been as follows:-

Year	Affected with Tuberculosis		Affected with other diseases		Total weight condemned		Adult Cattle affected with Cysticercosis
1956	2 tons	18 cwts.	4 tons	14 cwts.	7 tons	12 cwt.	1.65%
1957	2 "	13 "	8 "	5 "	10 "	18 "	1.9 %
1958	2 "	5 "	8 "	9 "	10 "	14 "	2.2 %
1959	2 "	2 "	7 "	6 "	9 "	8 "	1.4 %
1960		12 "	7 "	11 "	8 "	3 "	1.0 %
1961		9 "	5 "	15 "	6 "	4 "	1.0 %

Ice Cream Control

Dr. Lucy - How sensible. muf 8/10/62.

There are two "cold-mix" manufacturers in the district, one of whom deals from a mobile vehicle in the commodity known as "soft freeze" ice cream. This latter type of production requires even more stringent care in the sterilization of equipment and of the 12 samples of ice-cream taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Peterborough, 9 were placed in Provisional Grade I; one in Grade II and one in Grade III. The sample in Provisional Grade III was taken from the mobile "soft freeze" producer and it was found on investigation that the water used in the mix was not satisfactory. This was found to be due to the use of a rubber hose pipe for filling the containers. This matter was rectified and subsequent samples placed in Grade I. There are 94 dealers premises registered for the sale and storage of ice-cream.

The County Health Inspector is the responsible officer for sampling ice-cream for compositional quality.

Inspection of other Foods

Regular inspections were made during the year under review at the canning factory to inspect imported food products and to other food shops in the area upon request.

Hygiene of Food Premises

One must be ever vigilant to ensure that food premises are maintained in satisfactory hygienic circumstances. Too often the cry by a food shop proprietor is "What is the minimum I have to do to comply with the regulations?" It is always the endeavour of your officers to impress on all food handlers the vital part they play in the network of clean food production, storage or sale. It is said that a chain is as strong as the weakest link and in the matter of food handling all persons, from the manager to the errand boy, have a very important responsibility to the public.

Informal notices have been sent to various food premises covering provision or replacement of sinks and hot water supplies, improved sanitary accommodation, repairs to premises and redecoration. For the most part such informal action has been successful.

The table below gives a list of food premises in the district.

Bakery and confectionery	17
Butchery premises	28
Canning and bottling	2
Canteens (School, works and hospitals)	24
Catering premises	24
Dairy and ice-cream manufacture	2
Fried fish and chip saloons	17
Fruit and greengrocery	4
Grocery and provisions premises	72
Licensed premises	92
Small general stores	14
Sweet and confectionery shops	21

Twenty-two premises are registered for the manufacture of sausage and preserved meats.

DISINFESTATION

Rodent Control

The Council's rodent operator, Mr. R. Brown, after 21 years of loyal and efficient service to the Council, retired in June 1961, and Mr. F. Bailey took over the duties in July 1961.

This rural district is covered by the Mene and Wolland River Boards and in turn there are seven Internal Drainage Boards all but one of which employ staff for rat destruction work in all of the main drains and dykes. This, in my opinion, helped considerably in keeping down overwhelming infestations of rats invading the more populated areas. Many of the estates and larger farms employ full time game keepers and many occupiers of land poisoned their own rats, this too helped in checking infestations.

It is interesting to record that no formal notices to enforce treatment of infestations were necessary; usually visits and an informal letter achieved full co-operation.

Details of total work undertaken have been compiled in the following table. Inspections made by public health inspectors have also been included.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

	Type of Property				
	Non-agricultural				Agricultural
	L.A.	Houses	Others	Total	
Number of properties in district	65	7128	1155	8339	1700
Total inspected after notification	1	18	8	27	21
Number infested by					
Common Rat Major	-	-	-	-	11
Minor	1	16	6	23	10
House Mouse Minor	-	2	2	4	-
Total inspected during survey	15	108	21	144	73
Number infested by					
Common Rat Major	-	-	-	-	9
Minor	14	66	18	98	42
House Mouse Minor	-	5	2	7	-
Total otherwise inspected	42	156	60	258	62
Number of infestations		Included in figures above			
Total inspections	148	285	127	560	313
Number of infested properties treated by L.A.	58	282	89	429	156
Total treatments	14	66	18	98	51

The South Holland, South Welland and Holland Elloe Drainage Boards carry out rat destruction in their drains and dykes with their own men whilst this Council treats those of the Sutton Bridge Internal Drainage Board. Co-operation between the Boards and the Council is good. In addition, several private disinfestation firms carry out work in the area.

Insect Control

The main insect pest complaints dealt with concerned wasps, bees, ants, beetles, fruit flies and a bad case of bed bugs.

The bed bug infestation was an isolated case occurring in an old type Council house. This was thoroughly treated with the co-operation of the Housing Department.

Serious nuisance occurred from swarms of fruit flies that invaded six Council houses and a nearby cafe. Investigation showed that they were breeding in broad bean haulm spread on arable land. The farmer concerned soon had the offending land deep ploughed. The houses and cafe were sprayed with D.D.T.

The disposal of bean haulm waste was been taken up with the factory concerned.

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, ETC.

General Health Provisions at Factories

The following table gives details of the inspection of factory premises during 1961. There were no prosecutions.

Factories Act 1937 and 1948

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	3	-	-	-
Factories with power	102	28	2	-
Works of building operations	3	3	-	-

No of cases in which defects were found:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences				
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-

1 outworker is employed in making hair pins.

1 outworker is employed in making trimmings for lampshades.

Storage of Petroleum

A total of 54 inspections were made of the 212 petroleum storage installations in the district. Thirteen new tanks were installed and two installations were closed and made safe by filling with water.

One large garage and filling station remains to be brought up to the Home Office requirements and land has now been purchased and plans approved to enable the work to proceed

The passing of the 1961 Public Health Act now gives the Council power to deal with old disused petroleum storage installations.

